

Patent  
Attorney's Docket No. 000600-044

**REMARKS**

The claims have been amended to address informalities.

In the Office Action, the Examiner refers to claims 1-22 as pending. However, there are 20 claims.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-7, 9-11, 13, 14 and 16-20 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kettler et al. (US 2002/0083673) in view of Morita et al. (US 4,943,612).

Kettler et al. has been cited only for disclosing an interlocking unit comprising a tongue and groove. There is no polymer film whatsoever provided on any of the tongue or groove.

Morita et al. only discloses a polymer latex (which is a fluid) suitable as an adhesive for wood. There is no disclosure about any polymer film, or formation of any polymer film, in connection with the use of the polymer latex as an adhesive, and even less any polymer film provided on a tongue and/or groove.

A polymer film is not identical to a polymer latex. In the present invention a polymer film is provided onto a tongue and/or groove and as such suitable for later use in creating a bond between a tongue and groove. The interlocking unit of the present invention having a polymer film has long storage life which is exemplified by Example 2 of the specification.

The further cited references Lelli et al. (US 6,617,386) and Rockrath et al. (US 6,410,646) are combined with Kettler et al. and Morita et al. The addition of these secondary references fails to cure the defects noted above with regard to the combination of Kettler et al. and Morita et al.

Applicants therefore request that a Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

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